

This industry is dominated by small businesses, with most employing less than 25 people. For the past decade, the metal finishing sector has worked diligently to improve its environmental performance. Today, nearly 30 percent of the total expenditures of these small companies are invested in pollution prevention and control equipment.

However, current regulations imposed on this industry are actually hindering the achievement of additional environmental gains by stymieing the development and use of innovative technology that would allow reuse of valuable metals resulting from the manufacturing process. Under these regulations, businesses presently are given a choice of expensive offsite recycling or burying valuable resources in the ground.

In fact, companies like McDowell Enterprises in Elkhart, IN, pay a 25-percent premium to save their resources through recycling. Certainly, a better option exists. We should be encouraging onsite metal recovery or the use of the innovative treatment technologies.

A sound national pollution prevention program should spur voluntary initiatives. We must promote a broad range of risk management options, for reducing environmental releases of toxic chemicals and in some cases eliminating the generation of hazardous wastes altogether. This includes such methods as source reduction, reuse, recycling treatment and other waste minimization techniques.

A broad program will permit businesses, large and small, the flexibility to design pollution prevention strategies based on the level of risk to public health and the environment.

I urge Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency to provide leadership to free America's innovative spirit. We must encourage all Americans to create new technologies that will allow industries to go beyond compliance and that will lead to a better environment.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 17, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this important piece of legislation, which is the result of much effort and hard work. As the former chairman of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee, I maintain a deep concern for this issue. In 1994, I released a General Accounting Office report, which was undertaken at my request, that called for reexamination of employee housing needs within the National Park Service [NPS]. During consideration of H.R. 2941 in the Resources Committee this year, I continued to offer my input to improve it, including an amendment I offered which is now part of the bill. I want to commend my colleagues, Mr. HEFLEY and Chairman HANSEN, along with Mr. RICHARDSON for their positive efforts regarding this proposed policy.

I support efforts to ensure that the housing needs of National Park Service employees are met. In this time of downsizing and fiscal con-

straints, we must scrutinize all programs including our natural resources programs, to make sure scarce Federal dollars are allocated fairly. This bill provides general authority for the Park Service to make housing available for its employees, both on and off Federal lands, at costs commensurate with comparable housing in the surrounding area. Authorization is given for leasing of Federal land to private contractors to permit them to build and maintain housing for parks employees.

When the bill was considered in the Resources Committee, my amendment added several important provisions. To ensure that the needs of parks employees and our responsibilities to the American taxpayer are both met, this bill grants additional housing authority to the Park Service only where that authority is necessary and justified. The NPS will have to review and revise the existing criteria under which housing is provided to employees of the Park Service. My additions also require that the NPS submit a plan on how to meet the housing needs of parks employees. When this review is completed for specific units of the NPS, and the need is established, authorization is given to enter into housing agreements to develop, construct, rehabilitate, or manage housing on, or off public lands for rent, or lease by NPS employees.

Clearly there are many NPS units today that do not require or justify public employee or private employee housing within or outside of the parks units. Times have changed and it is appropriate for the policy to recognize reality. Transportation and development have greatly improved and the necessity of NPS housing is much reduced. The problems associated with managing a National Park unit in the 1990's are tremendous, and park housing policy too often flows to business as usual, imposing more management headaches that are not justified by the circumstance. The National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management with vast land, nearly 600 million acres, have far less, not even 20 percent of the employee housing, that exists in the 90 million acres of NPS lands. This speaks for itself even as we recognize the different missions and responsibilities. It is time the NPS reevaluate and refocus its housing policy. This measure is one such opportunity—a tough but necessary task.

With these provisions, this bill has been improved and updated. The bill is consistent with good management practices and sound policymaking. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

TRIBUTE TO JIM ARMSTRONG

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute one of America's beloved former teachers and former mayors, James Armstrong of Torrance, CA.

I call Mr. "Mr. Mayor." I doubt anyone in Torrance would dispute that appellation. During his 6 years (1972–78) on the Torrance City Council and eight more as Mayor (1978–86), Jim oversaw Torrance's renaissance into a beautiful and modern city.

Jim Armstrong is also an educator. He taught American Government at Torrance

High from 1958 to 1986. Earlier in his career, he taught at Torrance Elementary School, where he was an inspiration to many generations of young people. Because of his influence, many of them have entered careers in which they too serve the community.

Through the years and in retirement, Jim has remained active by serving in leadership roles with many non-profit community organizations including the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, the Torrance Education Foundation, the Torrance YWCA Advisory Board, the Foundation of California State University Dominguez Hills and the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1981, the city's municipal theater was named the James Armstrong Theater.

On September 21, the Torrance YWCA will be honoring Jim Armstrong as Man of the Year. I join with the YWCA and all the people of the South Bay by giving special recognition to our special friend.

CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to note that the Republic of China [ROC] is preparing to celebrate its 85th anniversary. Taiwan's National Day, October 10, is an important celebration for the people of Taiwan and for freedom loving people throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, the ROC is the United States' sixth largest trading partner and one of our strongest allies in the Pacific rim. The ROC continues to purchase American goods and services at a healthy and growing rate. Hundreds of American corporations have offices in Taiwan, which has proven to be an excellent market for the United States in this rapidly growing region of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to travel to Taiwan 10 years ago. At that time, I saw a government transitioning democracy. Now, 10 years later, that transition has been completed with the popular election earlier this year of President Lee Teng Hui. I am certain that if I am able to return to Taiwan in the near future, I will see not only massive economic development throughout the island, but also a vibrant democracy at work.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is our friend and supporter. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating President Lee and all 21 million people on Taiwan on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF SHOULD DECIDE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the House considered and passed H.R. 3308, the U.S. Armed Forces Protection Act, a misnomer, which I strongly opposed. I